

## NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW NOVEMBER 4-29, 2013

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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### American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

NOVEMBER 29, 2013

#### Today's Top Stories

1. President Alassane Ouattara to conclude visit to the Gbeke region, lays foundation stone of a bridge in the city of Beoumi
2. Two years after his transfer to the ICC, supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo say the move was a setback to reconciliation
3. The supreme court puts on hold the trial of former military chief

1. **President Alassane Ouattara to conclude visit to the Gbeke region, lays foundation stone of a bridge in the city of Beoumi**

President Alassane Ouattara is to conclude today in Bouake his four-day visit to the Gbeke region in central Cote d'Ivoire. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 4-5) the Ivorian leader was yesterday in Beoumi, a city 32 miles from Bouake. The paper adds that he lay the foundation stone of a bridge across the Bandama river, a project that will improve access to the city. According to the daily this fulfilled an election promise then opposition leader Alassane Ouattara made during the 2010 presidential race. "I was saddened to see how access to the city was difficult and now we are working on improving it," President Ouattara reportedly said. In addition to the bridge, the city has benefited from 2 billion CFA (US \$ 4 million) made available as part of the presidential emergency plan to rebuild the city's infrastructure, the paper adds.

With more on the visit, *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 6) says that the Ivorian leader called on the people of Beoumi to champion reconciliation efforts. "Keep on reaching out to each other and forget about the past," he said. In a separate development, the paper notes that the Ivorian First Lady Dominique wa part of the presidential visit and offered CFA 70 million (US \$ 140 million) to FAFCI, a micro-loan cooperative supporting rural women.

2. **Two years after his transfer to the ICC, supporters of former president Laurent Gbagbo say the move was a setback to reconciliation**

Today marks the second anniversary of former president Laurent Gbagbo's detention by the International Criminal Court. The information made news in most papers and is the subject of banner headlines in opposition papers. According to an article in *Notre Voie* (p. 2) the Ivorian government decision to transfer the ex-leader to the Hague-based court was a serious setback to the prospects of genuine national reconciliation. Qualifying the move a "deportation" the daily argues that it was all

but a bad idea that does not even serve President Ouattara. According to the daily, the decision was politically motivated although the government has pledged it was meant to ensure a fair trial to the ex-leader. For the paper a release of the former leader will definitely speed up the slow reconciliation process. **Le Nouveau Courier (p. 3-5)** carries a similar account adding that the ex-leader called on its supporters to remain motivated.

3. **The supreme court puts on hold the trial of former military chief**

Thirteen months after a court in Abidjan sentenced him to serve 15 years in prison for a murder committed in the wake of the post-electoral crisis, General Brunot Dobgo Ble, the former head of the elite forces dubbed Republican Guards (GR) was at the bar again yesterday after his lawyer appealed the case before the Ivorian supreme court denouncing bias. According to **L'Inter (p. 3)** yesterday's session was very brief and the case was postponed until December 26. "Thank you all, I am doing well," the paper reported a rather upbeat General Ble as saying to family members and friends gathered on the occasion.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[\*\*Cote d'Ivoire: More Ivoirians Return From Liberian Refuge\*\*](#)

AllAfrica.com-13 hours ago

Zwedru — As peace takes hold in parts of **Côte d'Ivoire**, more Ivoirians are returning home from eastern Liberia, where they have been living ...

[\*\*Cote d'Ivoire: People in Need Get Better Access to Healthcare ...\*\*](#)

AllAfrica.com-19 hours ago

Brussels — Ivorians will get better maternal and child health services thanks to an €18 million deal on debt reduction between **Côte d'Ivoire**, ...

[\*\*Ivory Coast to Approve United Nations Watercourses Convention\*\*](#)

AllAfrica.com-Nov 27, 2013

Geneva — Green Cross congratulates **Ivory Coast** for taking a key step to becoming the 32nd country to ratify the United Nations Watercourses ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 27, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Government promises more than a million jobs by 2015
2. President Ouattara calls for continuity within ruling RHDP coalition
3. U.S. Ambassador McCulley speaks on gender based violence
4. Former Ivoirian army officer to appear in court on appeal
5. Government sets up commission on border demarcation
6. Rights group calls for the protection of journalists in Cote d'Ivoire
7. Seminar for media practitioners on press monitoring ahead of 2015 elections

### 1. Government promises more than a million jobs by 2015

A prominent headline in **Fraternite Matin (p. 1)** says more than one million jobs will be created in Cote d'Ivoire by the year 2015. According to the paper (**p. 4**), this was announced yesterday in Bouake by government spokesperson Bruno Kone at a press briefing after a cabinet meeting that was presided over by President Alassane Ouattara. Kone is also reported as saying that the plan is "to create 200,000 jobs every year." "The unemployment rate in Cote d'Ivoire is 9.4 per cent," Kone is reported as saying. He also added that the informal sector remains the major job provider in Cote d'Ivoire; and by creating more jobs, the government is trying to improve the living conditions for more than six million people in the country

### 2. President Ouattara calls for continuity within ruling RHDP coalition

The unity of the ruling RHDP coalition that supported President Ouattara during the 2010 presidential runoff makes prominent headlines in the press today, as President Ouattara calls for the continuation of the alliance in the run-up to the 2015 presidential elections. "The RHDP is a winning team," **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** quotes President Ouattara as saying yesterday during as part of his tour of the Bouake region. The president also called on the people to continue supporting the coalition and thanked former president Henri Konan Bedie for his firm support that made it possible for Ouattara "to win a landslide victory" in the region.

President Ouattara's message, "We don't change a winning team" features prominently in **Le Patriote (p. 1)** which quotes the president thanking the Baoule ethnic group. "I am here to seek your support," reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**, "I count on your support for the 2015 elections," **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4)** quotes the president as saying. The paper also comments that by calling for unity within the ruling coalition ahead of the 2015 presidential elections, President Ouattara and his ally Bedie are speaking with one voice.

### 3. U.S. Ambassador McCulley speaks on gender based violence

U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Terence McCulley says, "No country can make progress with half of its population marginalized and maltreated" reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 10)**. Ambassador McCulley was speaking Tuesday at a panel discussion organized by the U.S. embassy to mark the 16 days of activism against gender violence. The report also says that the ambassador expressed concerns about the alarming situation of violence committed against women in Cote d'Ivoire. Speaking at the program, Imam Cisse Djiguiba, head of Djigui Foundation, a rights group fighting against Female Genital Mutilation in Cote d'Ivoire said, "Mutilation of young girls has nothing to do with religion."

### 4. Former Ivoirian army officer to appear in court on appeal

Gal Dogbo Ble Brunot, one of former president Laurent Gbagbo's top military allies, is to appear in court on Thursday for an appeal, reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 7)**. Dogbo, who was sentenced

to 15 years in prison in October 2012 for kidnapping, illegal detention, and murder linked to the 2011 post-electoral violence.

#### **5. Government sets up commission on border demarcation**

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5) says the government has set up a commission tasked with working on the demarcation of maritime borders between Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia.

Reporting on the same issue, *Soir Info* (p. 10) says that the government's decision to set up a border demarcation commission is aimed at finding a diplomatic solution to differences between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire over a gas deposit discovered at the border of the two countries.

#### **6. Rights group calls for the protection of journalists in Cote d'Ivoire**

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 6) says the Cote d'Ivoire National Commission for Human Rights (CNDHCI) has expressed concerns about violence against journalists in Cote d'Ivoire. This was during a meeting yesterday between the commission and Ivoirian media in Abidjan.

#### **7. Seminar for media practitioners on press monitoring ahead of 2015 elections**

Ivoirian media practitioners yesterday received training on press monitoring, reports *Notre Voie* (p. 8). According to the paper, the training was organized by the state-run National Council of the Press (CNP) and OLPED, an independent media watchdog. The training, the report says, is to promote responsible media influence in the coming presidential elections.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ghana, Ivory Coast aim to settle maritime boundary peacefully](#)

*Yahoo News* - 18 hours ago

From *Yahoo News*: West African neighbors Ghana and *Ivory Coast* aim to settle a long dispute over their maritime boundary, the Ivorian ...

[Ghana, Ivory Coast launch trans-boundary project](#)

*Ghana Business News* - 6 days ago

[Ghana, Ivory Coast can dictate cocoa prices on world market – Minister](#)

*Ghana Business News* - 6 days ago

[Rains and sun bode well for Ivory Coast's main crop cocoa - Yahoo ...](#)

[news.yahoo.com/rains-sun-bode-well-ivory-coasts-main-crop-15320735...](#)

By Loucoumane Coulibaly ABIDJAN (Reuters) - A mixture of downpours and sunshine last week in most of *Ivory Coast's* ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 26, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **On a visit to Bouake, Ouattara calls for unity**
2. **Opposition leader proposes recipe for peaceful elections**
3. **U.S. commends Cote d'Ivoire's efforts to restore stability**
4. **Ivoirian Gendarmes trained on how to fight terrorism**
5. **PEPFAR to fund research on HIV/AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire**
6. **Media network calls for investigation into the death of journalist**
7. **U.S. Embassy to host conference on gender violence today**

### 1. On a visit to Bouake, Ouattara calls for unity

President Alassane Ouattara's visit to the central region of Bouake is the major issue in the press today. With a picture of a cheerful-president being welcomed on his arrival in Bouake by thousands of residents, *Fraternite Matin* (p. 1) says the president was visibly touched by the huge turnout. "Let's turn the page on the difficulties" that the country went through; the paper quotes President Ouattara as telling the gathering. "I am here to call for unity and effort," he told the residents of Bouake, the town that served as the stronghold of the 2002 rebellion in Cote d'Ivoire. In a commentary, the paper (p. 4) sees the massive turnout of the population to welcome the president as a symbol of "unity and national cohesion" from a city.

A reporter of *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) describes President Ouattara's arrival in Bouake as a presidential candidate on campaign. "Cote d'Ivoire is working and the country is under construction," the paper quotes the president as saying. "The country is moving forward," reads a prominent headline in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 1) quoting the president.

With a picture of President Ouattara amid fanfare in Bouake, *Le Jour Plus* (p. 1) discloses that the president could be the single candidate for the ruling RHDP coalition in 2015 presidential elections. The paper which attributes this information to insiders suggests that the coalition is likely to adopt a rotating system of power sharing that would make room for former president Henri Konan Bedie's PDCI-RDA to come to power in 2020.

### 2. Opposition leader proposes recipe for peaceful elections

*Soir Info* (p. 6) publishes a document highlighting a five-point strategy proposed by the leader of the opposition LIDER party, Mamadou Koulibaly, in an effort to ensure peaceful, transparent, inclusive and credible elections in 2015. The document recommends a nationwide census that should not take into account issues such as ethnicity and religion that "political leaders usually resort to in a bid to fuel conflict among the population." The document also calls for the reopening of the voter register in order to include youths who are eligible to vote. In addition, the document proposes a reform of the independent electoral commission, which, it says, has been "illegal" following the 2011 legislative elections. Furthermore, the document calls on the parliament to pass the bill on the status of the opposition; and finally the disarmament of militia groups that were responsible for killings and abuses perpetrated during the previous elections.

### 3. U.S. commends Cote d'Ivoire's efforts to restore stability

A report in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 4) says U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power has commended the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire for their efforts to restore stability in the country after the 2011 post-electoral crisis. According to the paper, Power said this after a meeting with Cote d'Ivoire Ambassador to the United Nations Youssoufou Bamba.

### 4. Ivoirian Gendarmes trained on how to fight terrorism

The UN police have trained gendarmes on how to fight terrorism, reports **Soir Info (p. 3)**. The training provided general information about terrorists and their modes of operation, the paper reports a UN police officer as saying.

#### **5. PEPFAR to fund research on HIV/AIDS in Cote d'Ivoire**

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)** says Cote d'Ivoire National Statistics School and the Elisabeth Glazer Foundation have signed an agreement aimed at reinforcing cooperation between the two institutions. Financed by PEPFAR, the project will enable the two bodies to conduct research and documentation of activities carried out as part of the campaign against HIV/AIDS.

#### **6. Media network calls for investigation into the death of journalist**

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 20)** says Cote d'Ivoire's National Union of Journalists (UNJCI) has expressed the hope that investigations into the death of Desire Oue and the kidnapping of the Dieusmonde Tade would help identify the perpetrators. Speaking yesterday at a press conference, the president of UNJCI, Traore Moussa, also called on the media to exercise restraint in reporting on these two incidents in order to enable the police to identify the culprits and bring them to justice.

#### **7. U.S. Embassy to host conference on gender violence today**

The U.S. Embassy is today organizing a conference to highlight the 16 days of activism against gender violence, announces **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 6)**. Another report in this paper says Ivoirian female journalists recently participated in a capacity building training that focused gender violence, civic education and good governance.

With more on the celebration of the 16 days of activism against gender violence, **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 9)** publishes a statement signed by the Minister of Solidarity, Family and Women, Anne Desire Ouloto underscoring the spate of gender violence in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the document, a UN report has documented 865 cases of gender violence during the first quarter this year.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Air Cote d'Ivoire plots growth course](#)

ATWOnline-11 hours ago

Startup carrier Air Cote d'Ivoire, which was launched 10 months ago, is planning to expand its domestic network to eight destinations using its ...

[Dubai Airshow roundup](#)

**Defence Web-by Guy Martin-22 hours ago**

Air Cote d'Ivoire placed a conditional order for 2 Bombardier Dash ... Airways for Trent 700 engines to power 5 Airbus aircraft, *Reuters* reported.

[To End Violence Against Women, Work with Men](#)

**Reuters AlertNet-Nov 23, 2013**

... 25, 2013. *REUTERS*/Remo Casilli ... In Cote d'Ivoire, for example, the World Bank Group has funded a Village Savings & Loan Association.

[Côte d'Ivoire raises minimum wage for workers after 19 years](#)

Mail & Guardian Online-Nov 21, 2013

Côte d'Ivoire has announced it will raise the minimum wage by more ...paid the minimum, which is far from enough to live on in Côte d'Ivoire.

[Côte d'Ivoire raises minimum wage for workers after 19 years](#)

Mail & Guardian Online-Nov 21, 2013

[Côte d'Ivoire has announced it will raise the minimum wage by more ...paid the minimum, which is far from enough to live on in Côte d'Ivoire.](#)

[Ghana-Cote D'Ivoire Trans-Boundary Project Launched](#)

Ghana-Nov 21, 2013

The Ghana-*Cote d'Ivoire* Trans-boundary Project to establish a viable and sustainable trans-frontier conservation area was launched in Accra yesterday.

**Threatening Environment for Journalists**

AllAfrica.com-Nov 21, 2013 *Cote d'Ivoire*: Threatening Environment for Journalists. 21 November 2013. press release. Reporters Without Borders is alarmed by the climate of intimidation for ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 25, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara's week-long visit to Bouake begins today
2. Exiled Ivoirian soldiers return home from Togo
3. Ivoirian opposition leader prevented from travelling abroad
4. Daily says President Ouattara blackmailing ex-first lady
5. Gbagbo ally publishes book calling for African renaissance
6. NDI meets with UDPCI ahead of 2015 presidential elections
7. Infighting between two MFA factions
8. Diamond watchdog calls for end to Cote d'Ivoire embargo
9. Cote d'Ivoire launches biometric visa

### 1. President Ouattara's week-long visit to Bouake begins today

President Alassane Ouattara's week-long visit to the central city of Bouake as part of his tour of different regions of the country features prominently in the press today. **Fraternite Matin (pp. 1, 4, 5, 6&7)** devotes several columns to the preparations, emphasizing development projects that have been carried out ahead of the president's arrival in the region. Speaking to the paper, a resident of Bouake sees the president's visit as "an engine of development." The paper also announces that the weekly cabinet meeting will be held today in Bouake. The president, the report says, will also inaugurate the Abidjan-Yamoussoukro highway that was been completely renovated.

As the president is expected in Bouake, the army has cordoned off the region, reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 3)**. According to the paper, the president will be meeting with former combatants from the region who have been returned to civil life as part of the government demobilization and reintegration program.

### 2. Exiled Ivoirian soldiers return home from Togo

After three years of exile in Lome, Togo, five former Ivoirian soldiers have returned back home, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)**. According to the paper, the five soldiers include a gendarmerie officer and four junior officers who arrived in Abidjan on Friday along with their families. "Nothing will happen to you," the paper quotes Minister in charge of Defense Paul Koffi Koffi as assuring the soldiers. In a separate article, the paper reports that Togolese authorities have commended President Ouattara for his efforts to help exiled Ivoirian soldiers return home. Meanwhile, Koffi, in an interview with the paper, said, "We are prepared to welcome other defense and security forces" who fled the country during the 2011 post-electoral crisis.

On the fate of the five soldiers who arrived home over the week-end, a report in **Le Jour Plus (p. 3)** says President Ouattara has given the Minister in charge of Defense firm instructions to ensure their well-being.

According to **Le Mandat (p. 3)**, UNHCR has estimated that nearly 300 soldiers loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo have sought refuge in neighboring countries. **Soir Info (p. 6)** reports that with the government's deadline for amnesty ending on November 30, soldiers who are still living abroad have five days to return home.

In a related development, another report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 11)** says 27 Ivoirian soldiers, who are willing to return home, are stranded in Liberia. The paper quotes a spokesperson of the soldiers, who have been living in the Zwedu refugee camp, as saying that they don't have money to pay their transport to Abidjan.

### 3. Ivoirian opposition leader prevented from travelling abroad



Laurent Akoun, a top aide to former president Gbagbo, who was released from jail in February, has been prevented from travelling to Paris, France, reports **Notre Voie (p. 4)**. According to the paper, Akoun, who was about to board on a plane with his family on Saturday, was arrested and briefly detained by an Ivoirian Intelligence unit.

"I was humiliated," **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4)** quotes the opposition leader as saying after being interrogated by the police. While Akoun is arguing that a court decision confining him to his hometown has expired, a statement signed by the Minister of Communication, Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine, indicates that "Akoun can be prosecuted for not respecting the court's decision." The statement also indicates that "Though Akoun was released from jail on February 28, 2013, measures restricting him from enjoying his civil rights and banning him from leaving his hometown took effect from that date."

#### **4. Daily says President Ouattara blackmailing ex-first lady**

According to a report in **Notre Voie (p. 3)**, former first lady Simone Gbagbo is being subject to blackmail by President Ouattara as a condition to release her. Citing reliable sources, the paper indicates that the president has tasked his aides with convincing the first lady and other political prisoners to withdraw from politics as a condition for release from jail.

#### **5. Gbagbo ally publishes book calling for African renaissance**

Justin Katinan Kone, Gbagbo's former Budget Minister, who is living in exile in Ghana, makes prominent headlines today as dailies report on a book he published recently calling on African countries to use recent events in Cote d'Ivoire as the starting point for a continental renaissance. "We need to be bold," **Soir Info (p. 4)** quotes Kone as saying about his book entitled, "Cote d'Ivoire: Audace de la rupture." According to **L'Inter (p. 4)** the book that was launched on Saturday in Abidjan, permitted Kone, who was speaking by phone from Accra, to disclose information on how French authorities pressured banks in Cote d'Ivoire to support their efforts to force Gbagbo from power. "Only a revolution can save us," **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 1)** quotes Katinan, who in August won a court battle avoiding extradition to Cote d'Ivoire, as saying.

#### **6. NDI meets with UDPCI ahead of 2015 presidential elections**

A report in **L'Inter (p. 6)** says NDI country director Dominique Dieudonne met with the leadership of the UDPCI party on Friday to discuss the 2015 presidential elections. According to the paper, Dieudonne also used the occasion to inform the party about the visit of an NDI delegation in December to Cote d'Ivoire to discuss with political stakeholders on how to ensure peaceful elections in 2015.

#### **7. Infighting between two MFA factions**

A report in the weekend issue of **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4)** said two rival factions are fighting over the leadership of the MFA party. According to the paper, one of the factions that opposed the leadership of the current chairman Innocent Anaky Kobena tried on Thursday to besiege the headquarters of the party in Abidjan.

#### **8. Diamond watchdog calls for end to Cote d'Ivoire embargo**

A report in the weekend issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 17)** said the global diamond watchdog, the Kimberley Process, on Friday called for the lifting of a 2005 UN embargo on diamond sales from Cote d'Ivoire. "The meeting recognized efforts made by the Ivoirian authorities to fulfill minimum requirements of the Kimberley Process under the group's certification system," the paper quotes a statement issued at the end the group's meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, as saying. The UN banned Ivorian diamonds to prevent the money from sales being used to fund arms purchases during a civil war, which began in 2002.

#### **9. Cote d'Ivoire launches biometric visa**

Ivoirian Interior Minister Ahmed Bakayoko on Friday launched an e-visa scheme that will enable travelers to obtain their visa upon arrival at the Felix Houphouet Boigny International Airport, reports ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 13)**. The report also says that travelers planning to visit Cote d'Ivoire can apply for visas on line.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

**[Watchdog backs end to Ivory Coast 'blood diamond' ban](#)**

GlobalPost-Nov 22, 2013

Global diamond watchdog, the Kimberley Process, on Friday gave its backing for the lifting of a 2005 UN embargo on diamond sales from *Ivory* ...

**[Support for end to Ivory Coast embargo](#)**

Sky News Australia-Nov 22, 2013

Global diamond watchdog, the Kimberley Process, is backing the lifting of a 2005 UN embargo on diamond sales from *Ivory Coast*.

**[Cambodia, Ivory Coast parliament chiefs vow to bolster bilateral ties](#)**

Global Times-6 hours ago

Cambodian and *Ivory Coast* parliament chiefs on Monday vowed to promote bilateral ties and cooperation for the benefits of the two countries ...

**[Ivory Coast: Taleveras gets interests in offshore blocks](#)**

Oil & Gas Journal-Nov 22, 2013

Taleveras Group, private South African concern, has signed agreements with Afren PLC, *Ivory Coast's* state Petroci, and the Ministry of Energy ...

**[Ivory Coast bans plastic bags to ease garbage glut \(1:52\)](#)**

Reuters UK-Nov 22, 2013

*Ivory Coast* bans plastic bags to ease garbage glut (1:52). Nov. 21 - A law banning the production and use of plastic bags in *Ivory Coast* is set to ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

NOVEMBER 22, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Terence McCulley, the new U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire presents credentials to President Ouattara
2. "Efforts are still needed to achieve reconciliation," CDVR chairman says as he hands over activity report to President Ouattara
3. Ivoirian Minister of Commerce says the government is committed to fighting inflation, denounces fiscal frauds
4. Ivoirian army private to serve three years term in prison following a murder case

### 1. Terence McCulley, the new U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire presents credentials to President Ouattara

The new U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Terence McCulley, presented his credentials yesterday to President Alassane Ouattara. The information is reported by several papers, including **Fraternite Matin (p. 11)**, **Soir Info (p. 6)**, **Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 4)**, **L'Inter (p.7)**, while others feature headlines on their front pages.

**L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)**, like many other dailies, reports that Ambassador McCulley is the 18th U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire and a veteran diplomat who has served in several other African countries including Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, Togo, Chad and South Africa.

**Le Patriote (p. 3)**, notes that Ambassador McCulley is committed to supporting Cote d'Ivoire. "My family and I are honored to be here in Cote d'Ivoire and I look forward to continuing the work to reinforce the already strong friendship that binds our two countries," he is reported as saying, adding that, "It is a tremendously important moment in the history of Cote d'Ivoire as Ivoirians come together to advance peace and reconciliation, to rebuild democratic institutions, and to promote economic growth."

### 2. "Efforts are still needed to achieve reconciliation," CDVR chairman says as he hands over activity report to President Ouattara

Set up right after the post electoral crisis in 2011, the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR) was tasked with fostering peace and cohesion among Ivoirians. According to a report in **Fraternite Matin (pp. 8-9)**, CDVR Chairman Charles Konan Banny handed over to President Ouattara yesterday a report of activities the commission carried out over the past two years. Accompanied on the occasion by members of the commission, Banny said efforts are still needed to achieve reconciliation. "The nation needs unity," he is reported as saying, calling on the Ivoirian leader to address land tenure issues and impunity, which continue to fuel tensions and are seen as major hindrances to reconciliation. For his part, President Ouattara said victims of the crises the country has experienced will in no way be forgotten.

In a related development, **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4)** notes that Banny's two year tenure was neither a success nor a failure. "We did what we could," the paper reports him as saying as he called on Ivoirians to champion reconciliation.

According to **L'Inter (p. 3)**, Banny complained that the work of the commission was jeopardized by arrests and attacks on government forces reported at various times around the country. The paper also notes that the president remains silent on the extension or termination of Banny's assignment.

### 3. Ivoirian Minister of Commerce says the government is committed to fighting inflation, denounces fiscal frauds

According to a report in ***Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 5)***, Ivoirian Minister of Commerce Jean Louis Billon said yesterday that measures are being taken to mitigate inflation and reduce the prices of basic commodities. Speaking during a conference, Billon argued that one of the strategies to reach that goal is to expand small and medium sized businesses in Cote d'Ivoire. "By increasing to 50 percent SMEs and SMIs we can address this issue," he offered, adding that a task force will be set up to monitor the sector.

***Soir Info (p. 8)*** carried a similar account, adding that measures are also being taken to reduce fraud, one of the factors that contribute to inflation.

#### 4. **Ivoirian army private to serve three years term in prison following a murder case**

***Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2)*** reports that Private Konate Karna was sentenced to three years of prison yesterday by a martial court in Abidjan. Konate, a soldier from the FRCI, was found guilty of manslaughter in a case that happened in 2011 in western Cote d'Ivoire. He is also accused of violating military orders, the paper adds.

On security, ***Aujourd'hui (p. 3)*** reports that six soldiers from the CCDO, the FRCI elite force, were killed Wednesday night in Abidjan by unidentified commandos. Two of the assailants were killed in the exchange of gunfire, the paper adds.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire raises minimum wage for workers after 19 years](#)

Mail & Guardian Online

Côte d'Ivoire has announced it will raise the minimum wage by more than 60% ... by the president of Côte d'Ivoire's consumer rights federation, Doukoua Gode

[Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire team up to conserve biodiversity](#)

Ghana Broadcasting Corporation

Ghana and Cote d' Ivoire are to establish a viable and sustainable trans-frontier conservation area that links forest reserves and protected areas in and around ...

[Côte d'Ivoire - Threatening environment for journalists](#)

Reuters AlertNet

The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI) issued a statement yesterday appealing to "all parties concerned to work for freedom of information and ...

[Cote d'Ivoire power plant expansion to add 139MW](#)

Gas to Power Journal

Cote d'Ivoire will have an additional 139MW of gas-fired capacity as Globeleq, an independent power company, announced an expansion of its existing 288MW ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 21, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Reactions after alleged assassination and kidnapping of Ivoirian journalists
2. Exiled Ivoirian soldiers to return home from Togo
3. 6,500 former combatants to join public service
4. Trial of former Ivoirian security chief begins today
5. Daily unveils Soro's agenda ahead of 2015 presidential elections
6. Government increases minimum wage by 60 percent

### 1. Reactions after alleged assassination and kidnapping of Ivoirian journalists

The murder of one Ivoirian journalist and the kidnapping of another are widely discussed in today's media with a prominent article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 23)** suggesting that the two incidents are "serious." The paper also wonders whether the two incidents were "trivial events" or "planned attacks" designed to "suppress press freedom" in Cote d'Ivoire. Reacting to the two incidents, Communication Minister Affoussiata Bamba Lamine condemned "these acts of violence" and wants "investigations to be conducted and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice." The statement however notes that "some media outlets have come to premature conclusions while no investigations have been conducted" and calls on "the responsibility" of journalists "to stick to the facts."

While the minister calls for investigations, a prominent headline in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 1)** quotes the publisher of the paper, Denis Kah Zion, as claiming, "We know the assassins" who kidnapped Dieusmonde Tade. The paper (**pp. 2&3**) devotes large columns commenting on the incidents and suggests that attacking journalists does not help President Alassane Ouattara's government. On the communication minister's statement calling on the media to be "responsible" and to "stick to the facts," the paper describes the minister's reaction as "inhuman."

On a similar tone, pro-opposition daily **Aujourd'hui (p. 4)** describes the minister's call for responsibility as "a mistake." **Le Temps (p. 2)** reports that the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire has condemned the assassination of Desire Gnonsiohoue and the kidnapping of Tade and expressed "its concern" following the two incidents.

### 2. Exiled Ivoirian soldiers to return home from Togo

The Ministry of Defense has announced that "As a response to the call of the president of the republic, many Ivoirian soldiers living in exile in Togo have decided to return home." According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)**, the statement, which was issued yesterday, indicates that these soldiers, who fled the country during the 2011 post-electoral crisis, are scheduled to arrive today. The statement also says The Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, is expected today in Togo to oversee the return of the soldiers. The report says the decision by the soldiers to come back home was made after the government on Tuesday issued a statement reminding soldiers and paramilitaries who have sought refuge abroad that they are required to return home by November 30.

**Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)** also quotes the statement as saying that the soldiers have voluntarily decided to return home. Meanwhile, an article in **Le Temps (p. 3)** suggests that despite the government deadline, some soldiers still refuse to return.

A report in **Soir Info (p. 3)** suggests that about 200 soldiers have sought refuge abroad after the post-electoral crisis. The report also claims that these soldiers are living in neighboring countries including Togo, Liberia and Ghana.

### 3. 6,500 former combatants to join public service

Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan yesterday said out of nearly 74,000 former combatants, "About 6,500 will join public service." According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** Duncan said this when visiting a project designed by the government as part of the disarmament and reintegration program. Duncan is also reported as saying that the rest will be integrated into other income-generating programs. In a related development, a report in **Le Patriote (p. 6)** says the government has launched a program in the port city of San Pedro aimed at helping approximately 90 former combatants to return to civilian life.

#### **4. Trial of former Ivoirian security chief begins today**

A report in **L'Inter (p. 6)** says the trial of Jean-Noel Abehi, a top security officer in the government of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, is set to begin today in Abidjan. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday by the Abidjan Military Tribunal. The paper also recalls that Abehi was arrested in Ghana and handed over to Ivorian authorities in February of this year.

According to **Soir Info (p. 5)**, the proceedings at the Abidjan Military Tribunal will begin today with the trial of two government's Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire (FRCI) charged with "grave human rights violation."

#### **5. Daily unveils Soro's agenda ahead of 2015 presidential elections**

With two years to go before the next presidential elections, President of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro has started working for the reelection of President Ouattara, says an article in **L'Inter (p. 3)**. According to the paper, Soro's visits across the country to exchange with the population are part of his agenda designed to "market" President Ouattara. The paper also claims that Soro is already putting himself in a position to be the campaign director for the incumbent president.

#### **6. Government increases minimum wage by 60 percent**

The government has decided to increase minimum wage in Cote d'Ivoire from FCFA 36,600 (about US \$73) to FCFA 60,000 (about US \$120) per month, says a prominent headline in **Fraternite Matin (p. 1)**. This was announced yesterday after a cabinet meeting chaired by President Ouattara.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Up to a million child cocoa workers in W Africa](#) News24

Ivory Coast has spent 20 million CFA francs (\$41 000) to build schools, pharmacies and invest in electricity in efforts to reduce child labor, an industry ...

[Journalist gunned down in I Coast](#) Independent Online

Gunmen have killed a journalist in Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan, the head of the Union of the Private Press of Ivory Coast (Synapp-CI) said on Tuesday ...

[Increased Emphasis On Key Populations in Phase 2 of Cote d'Ivoire ...](#) AllAfrica.com

Phase 2 of two HIV grants to Cote d'Ivoire will see an increase in services for sex workers and men who have sex with men. The Global Fund Board recently ...

[Chinese VP meets US delegation, Cote d'Ivoire speaker](#) ecns

Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao on Tuesday met separately with a US bipartisan delegation and Cote d'Ivoire's parliamentary speaker Guillaume Soro.

[Africa hope to aim higher with familiar faces](#) Chicago Tribune

Algeria and Ghana completed the continent's five-team line-up for the 2014 finals on Tuesday, joining Cameroon, Ivory Coast and African champions Nigeria, ...

[Amara Mining Buoyed On By Positive Production Rates, Pretax Loss ...](#)London South East

The Africa-based gold mining company, with operations in Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone, said pretax losses almost halved to USD7.3 million for ...

**American Embassy's National Daily Press Review**  
**November 20, 2013**  
**Today's Top Stories**

1. President Ouattara shakes up his cabinet
2. Government reminds defecting soldiers to return home by November 30
3. President Ouattara holds talks with French minister of trade
4. Ivoirian communication minister participates in conference on digital TV transition
5. An Ivoirian journalist briefly kidnaped

**1. President Ouattara shakes up his cabinet**

A cabinet reshuffle announced yesterday features prominently in the press today. According to ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 4)**, the major change is the creation of a Ministry of Budget by President Alassane Ouattara, which will be headed by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. The president also appointed a 32-year old engineer, Abdourahmane Cisse, as the Minister in charge of Budget and Niala Kaba the Minister in charge of Economy and Finance, reports the paper. The report also says former defense minister Rene Francois Apling-Kouassi has been appointed as the head of the High Authority for Good Governance; while Gal Diomandé Vagondo was appointed as the president's military chief of staff, replacing Gal Michel Gueu who has retired.

On the rationale behind the creation of the new budget portfolio, ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 5)** claims that this could be part of President Ouattara's quest for "efficiency" on the part of the government in terms of management. Another article in this paper elaborates on the objectives of the new High Authority for Good Governance. Its role, reports the paper, is to put in place a national anti-corruption strategy and to oversee all government's policies on fighting and preventing corruption. The difference between the High Authority for Good Governance and the existing National Secretary for Good Governance is that the latter is responsible for identifying dysfunction in good governance policies. A prominent headline in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 1)** says the cabinet reshuffle gives more power to the prime minister. A report in ***L'Inter* (p. 3)** suggests that by giving the budget portfolio to a young technocrat, President Ouattara wanted to instill more responsibilities into people to ensure efficient management of state resources as part of the country's economic reforms. Meanwhile, an article in opposition paper ***Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3)** claims that the cabinet reshuffle could be linked to dysfunction in the government.

**2. Government reminds defecting soldiers to return home by November 30**

***Fraternite Matin* (p. 10)** carries a statement issued yesterday by the government reminding soldiers and paramilitaries who have sought refuge abroad to return home by November 30. The statement also says any defectors who fail to comply with the deadline will face legal charges and could be removed from the army.

**3. President Ouattara holds talks with French minister of trade**

A report in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 5)** says French Minister of External Trade Nicole Bricq is in Abidjan this week as part of a tour in Africa. According to the paper, Bricq's stop in Abidjan is to boost trade relations between France and Cote d'Ivoire and to discuss with Ivoirian authorities ways to create conditions to facilitate the return of French companies to Cote d'Ivoire.

A prominent report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)** says that the French minister is in Abidjan to discuss with Ivoirian authorities issues including transparency in business procedures, the judiciary and fiscal security. "We are very committed to the return of French businesses but we want to ensure that conditions for judicial security are in place," the paper quotes Bricq as saying.

**4. Ivoirian communication minister participates in conference on digital TV transition**



Ivoirian Minister of Communication Affoussiata Bamba-Lamine recently took part in a conference in Paris on digital television transition. According to the paper, the conference brought together ministers from Africa countries for an opportunity to share experiences on the issue.

## **5. An Ivoirian journalist briefly kidnapped**

The case of Dieusmonde Tade, a journalist with the daily newspaper *Le Nouveau Reveil*, who was allegedly kidnapped on Monday, is featured in several newspapers today. According to ***L'Inter* (p. 15)**, the journalist was abducted by unidentified men with the complicity of a taxi driver in Adjame, a neighborhood of Abidjan. The paper also reports Tade as saying that he was later abandoned in the bush outside of Abidjan after one of the hijackers received a phone call demanding to set him free. In a statement, the management of ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2)** informed the National Press Council (CNP) and the Ministry of Interior and Security about the incident. The paper also sees the kidnapping as a violation of press freedom in Cote d'Ivoire.

## **International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire**

### Standard Bank Weighs Ivory Coast Banking License

Bloomberg

Standard Bank Group Ltd. (SBK), Africa's largest lender, will consider setting up a bank in Ivory Coast in two years as a base to expand to French-speaking West ...

### Air Côte d'Ivoire orders two Q400s and two options

CAPA - Centre for Aviation

Air Côte d'Ivoire and Bombardier Aerospace signed (18-Nov-2013) a conditional purchase agreement for two Q400 NextGens with options for two additional ...

### Top Chinese legislator meets Cote d'Ivoire speaker

ecns

Zhang Dejiang (R), chairman of China's National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, shakes hands with Cote d'Ivoire's parliament speaker ...

### Standard Bank leads the way into Africa for South Africa's banks

BDlive

Standard Bank said it would officially open a representative office in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in February 2014 and would use the office as a base to familiarise ...

### London's new African best friends

New Statesman

Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique and Tanzania are to form "High Level Prosperity Partnerships" with the UK. But this odd collection of new partners ...

### The new invasion of West Africa.

GhanaWeb

In June 2013, Bloomberg reported Tullow (Cote D'Ivoire) as having found oil in the C-100 area whilst Tullow(Ghana) is operating as a jubilee partner in the ...

Gunmen Kill I. Coast Journalist Naharnet

Gunmen have killed a journalist in Ivory Coast's economic capital Abidjan, the head of the Union of the Private Press of Ivory Coast (Synapp-CI) said Tuesday, ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 19, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. National Assembly adopts bills on climate change and management of water streams
2. Peace caravan records more than 600,000 signatures
3. International Cocoa Initiative, partners meet on fighting against child labor
4. U.S. Senators in Cote d'Ivoire for tourism
5. Prime Minister Duncan holds talks with Turkish group on business
6. Two new pre-paid satellite TV companies to be launched in Cote d'Ivoire
7. Former Minister of Communication returns home from exile

### 1. National Assembly adopts bills on climate change and management of water streams

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says the National Assembly yesterday adopted two bills on climate change and management of water streams. According to the paper, the bills were adopted by the Commission on External Relations of the National Assembly. The bill on climate change seeks to allow the President of the Republic to ratify the agreement relating to the creation of a West African center for scientific research, climate change and land utilization, signed in Lome, Togo in February 2012. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Charles Koffi Diby, who presented the bill, is reported as saying, "The bill will help create conditions for countries in the West African region to effectively fight against the negative impacts of climate change."

### 2. Peace caravan records more than 600,000 signatures

More than 600,000 people have signed a petition calling for peace in Cote d'Ivoire, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7). According to the paper, the petition was signed during a nationwide campaign launched by Ivoire Development and Cooperation (IDC), a local NGO to promote peace and reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire. The campaign also allowed children across the country to write a message or make a drawing to promote peace.

### 3. International Cocoa Initiative, partners meet on fighting against child labor

Partners are meeting in Abidjan this week in a bid to map out plans aimed at fighting child labor in Cote d'Ivoire, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10). The meeting was initiated by International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), an organization that urges the chocolate industry to ensure child and forced labor were not used in the production of their products. The report also says that despite efforts by Ivoirian authorities to eliminate child labor, about one million children are still being used in the cocoa sector. Speaking at the conference, Ivoirian First Lady Dominique Ouattara commended the government for its efforts to eradicate the problem adding that this "dynamism has enabled Cote d'Ivoire to make significant progress."

Reporting on the same issue, *Soir Info* (p. 8) reports the first lady announced that more actions will be taken at both the national and international levels in a bid to stop child labor.

### 4. American Senators in Cote d'Ivoire for tourism

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) says a delegation of American senators and business leaders was received yesterday at the National Assembly in Abidjan. The delegation, made up of nearly 40 people met with the National Assembly's vice president and was briefed on the functioning of the assembly, reports the paper. According to a report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3), the group is in Cote d'Ivoire for tourism and will be travelling to Yamoussoukro, Korhogo, Grand-Bassam and Assinie.

### 5. Prime Minister Duncan holds talks with Turkish group on business

A report in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 10) says a Turkish group met yesterday with Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan on ways to invest in various sectors in Cote d'Ivoire. "We will start investment in

cement production and then launch a project on the San Pedro airport," the paper quotes Nihat Ozdemir, the head of the Turkish delegation of investors as saying.

#### **6. Two new pre-paid satellite TV companies to be launched in Cote d'Ivoire**

The state-run broadcast media regulatory body HACA has announced plans for two new satellite television companies to start operating in Cote d'Ivoire, reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 15)***. According to the paper, this was announced by the head of the High Authority for Audio-Video Communications (HACA), Ibrahim Sy Savane over the weekend during a seminar. According to the paper, the members of the broadcast media regulatory body also came out with decisions that seek to better regulate the sector in Cote d'Ivoire. ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 6)*** publishes a statement issued at the end of this seminar which reaffirms the government's commitment to liberalize the broadcast media by granting licenses for private satellite television stations and commercial radios in the future.

#### **7. Former Minister of Communication returns home from exile**

According to reports in the press today, former Ivoirian Minister of Communications Ouattara Gnonzie returned home yesterday from Accra, Ghana where he sought refuge after the 2011 post-electoral crisis. "I am back to take part in the reconstruction of our country," ***Le Temps (p. 3)*** quotes Ouattara as saying to reporters on his arrival at the airport in Abidjan.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Keeping it Clean - Ivorian Communities Getting the Balance Right](#)AllAfrica.com

Red Cross Red Crescent water and sanitation projects are having a major social impact in some of Côte d'Ivoire's poorest communities. After a decade of ...

[Cote d'Ivoire: Côte d'Ivoire Poised At a Development Crossroad](#)AllAfrica.com

Côte d'Ivoire's booming business successes have been highlighted by the World Bank "Doing Business 2014" report, where its economy was ranked 20th for ...

[Top Chinese legislator meets Cote d'Ivoire speaker](#) Xinhua

BEIJING, Nov. 18 (Xinhua) -- Top Chinese legislator Zhang Dejiang on Monday held talks with visiting Cote d'Ivoire's parliamentary speaker Guillaume Soro.

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 18, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. France and Cote d'Ivoire vow to fight terrorism
2. Reports say ICC continues to claim former first lady Simone Gbagbo
3. Audit says Cote d'Ivoire's internal debt rose to US \$306 million
4. EU trade commissioner holds talks with Ivoirian authorities
5. Cote d'Ivoire to construct five electricity dams to boost power production
6. Controversy over death of Ivoirian journalist

### 1. France and Cote d'Ivoire vow to fight terrorism

French Interior Minister Manuel Valls has called for the reinforcement of cooperation between France and Cote d'Ivoire in a bid to fight terrorism, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**. The report also says Valls, speaking in Abidjan on Friday, also commended President Alassane Ouattara for his "wisdom" and "statesmanship" as chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the resolution of the recent conflict in Mali. "Because we have the same objective in terms of security and fighting terrorism that confronts our values and our democracies, we want to work together," Valls is reported as saying. The report also says the French Interior Minister presented equipment to the Ivoirian Ministry of Interior to go toward security reforms in Cote d'Ivoire.

A report in **Soir Info (p. 3)** says security, fighting against terrorism and drug trafficking were high on the agenda during the meeting between the French Minister and President Ouattara. According to an article in **Notre Voie (p. 7)**, Ivoirian Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko called on his French counterpart for "rescue" from insecurity and terrorism.

### 2. Reports say ICC continues to claim former first lady Simone Gbagbo

A prominent article in **L'Inter (p. 2)** says the International Criminal Court (ICC) continues to demand the transfer of Simone Gbagbo, accused of crimes against humanity, to The Hague despite the refusal of authorities in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, this was indicated in a ruling on Friday by the court. The ruling, according to the paper, allows Cote d'Ivoire to delay the transfer of the former first lady pending the final decision on an appeal to Cote d'Ivoire to hand over Mrs. Gbagbo.

**Notre Voie (p. 3)** expresses surprise at the decision by the ICC granting Ivoirian authorities more time to decide whether or not to hand over the former first lady. The article suggests that the decision sounds as if the court is no longer "in a hurry" to have Mrs. Gbagbo transferred to The Hague. **Le Temps (p. 6)** interprets this decision as part of proceedings that could lead to the release of the former first lady.

### 3. Audit says Cote d'Ivoire's internal debt rose to US \$306 million

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)** says the government has made public the result of an audit saying that Cote d'Ivoire's international debt is estimated at US \$306 million. According to the paper, this was announced after a cabinet meeting on Thursday. The report also says that this amount covers the period running from September 2012 to October 2013. According to the paper, the audit has also enabled the government to figure out the country's real internal debt and quotes Minister in charge of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba as saying, "Only real and genuine debt will be paid."

### 4. EU trade commissioner holds talks with Ivoirian authorities

The Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) were discussed during a meeting Thursday between President Ouattara and EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht. De Gucht was in Abidjan to discuss ways to strengthen the EU's trade and investment relations with the country, reports **Fraternite**

**Matin (p. 8).** The paper also quotes De Gucht as saying that the negotiations between the EU and member countries of ECOWAS have reached their final stage.

A report in **L'Expression (p. 2)** says De Gucht commended Ivoirian authorities for "the high economic growth" recorded by the country during the past two years.

#### **5. Cote d'Ivoire to construct five electricity dams to boost power production**

Ivoirian Minister of Petrol and Energy Adama Toungara has announced the government's plans to construct five new electricity dams to increase power production in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 15)**. The project, when completed, would also make Cote d'Ivoire a power-hub in the sub-region, the paper reports the minister as saying. Reporting on the same issue, **L'Inter (p. 12)** quotes the minister as saying that "the projects will kick off within six months."

#### **6. Controversy over death of Ivoirian journalist**

The death of Desire Oue, an Ivoirian journalist, allegedly killed by identified gunmen, sparked debate in the press today. A report in **L'Inter (p. 14)** says the journalist was also a public speaker of "Parlements et Agoras," a youth group loyal to former president Laurent Gbagbo. A prominent report in **Notre Voie (p. 1)** claims that the journalist was killed by "militiamen loyal to the government" at his house in Abidjan. However, the Minister of Communications, Bamba Lamine Affoussiata, in an interview on **BBC Radio** said that he was, "Not killed while working as a journalist," but was, "simply killed at a robbery at his home."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ghana, Ivory Coast agree on roadmap to resolve maritime boundary ...](#)

GhanaWeb

Ghana and Ivory Coast have agreed to constitute a joint team to establish the geographical boundaries of a disputed area off the coast of Ghana, rich in oil and ...

[Nigerian community in Cote d'Ivoire shifts election to March 2014](#)

Nigerian Bulletin

The Nigerian Community in Cote d'Ivoire has announced the postponement of its central leadership election to March 2014. Mr Chidi Okafor, the Chairman, ...

[US\\$500 million project to interconnect Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra ...](#)

ESI Africa

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved the Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CLSG) electricity networks interconnection project.

[Bombardier and Air Cote d'Ivoire Sign Agreement for up to Four ...](#)

MarketWatch

Air Cote d'Ivoire is the national airline of Ivory Coast. Based on ... and integrate well into our fleet," said Rene Decurey, Chief Executive Officer, Air Cote d'Ivoire.

[Military trial set for former Ivory Coast security chief](#)

GlobalPost

A top security officer in the government of former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo is to go on trial for atrocities in the coming weeks, the military prosecutor ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

NOVEMBER 8, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. A nationwide military operation launched amidst threats of attacks against government forces
2. Liberalization of the audiovisual sector: "the government has the final decision," HACA president Sy Savane says
3. U.S. Embassy discusses reconciliation efforts, educational exchanges

### 1. A nationwide military operation launched amidst threats of attacks against government forces

According to a report in *L'Inter* (p. 3), an unidentified armed gang is planning attacks in the city of Gagnoa, a stronghold for the FPI party. Citing an unnamed source, the paper notes that the group said it has infiltrated the city and is ready to launch its offensive against government forces. Their strategy, the paper adds, includes killing high-profile politicians, including Gagnoa Deputy Abel Djohore, FPI official and former Minister Sebastien Dano Djedje as well as other dignitaries. "This is not a joke...there will be a cleansing within the FPI and in the other political parties and we will confront government forces," the source - using the alias name "Matricule 225" - is reported as saying.

This development came as a nationwide military operation dubbed "Operation Téré" was kicked off yesterday. According to the daily (p. 4), the operation was initially launched in Agboville, creating a tense situation in the city where FRCI soldiers have recently been the target of attacks by unidentified gunmen. The recent episodes left several FRCI soldiers injured, the paper says, adding that the operation was extended later to Toumodi in central Cote d'Ivoire.

*Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5) carried a similar account, adding that the Ivoirian deputy chief of staff to the army, Toure Sekou, said the ultimate goal of the operation is to eradicate roadside robbery and banditry. He also called on military staff deployed to act responsibly.

### 2. Liberalization of the audiovisual sector: "the government has the final decision," HACA president Sy Savane says

Speaking Wednesday at a conference with students from the Institute of Communication and Information Technology (ISTC), Ibrahim Sy Savane, the president of the Ivoirian Audiovisual and Communication Authority (HACA), said the liberalization of the audiovisual sector is necessary and the process to reach this goal is well on track. However, he insisted that it is also important to take the necessary steps to avoid duplicating mistakes and problems other countries have faced while going through the transition process with poor preparation. "The liberalization is much-needed but we must not overlook prerequisites we need to satisfy first including working on a smooth transition from analog to digital transmission," Sy Savane underscored. He added that June 17, 2015 is the deadline for the liberalization process.

### 3. U.S. Embassy discusses reconciliation efforts, educational exchanges

According to a report in *Soir Info* (p. 3), the U.S. government is committed to supporting reconciliation efforts in Cote d'Ivoire. The daily notes that Embassy human rights officer Amanda Murphy met Wednesday in Abidjan with Pr. Marietou Kone, the Coordinator of the National Program for Social Cohesion (PNCS). Discussions, the paper says, focused on ongoing efforts to foster cohesion among Ivoirians. According to Pr. Marietou, promoting human rights, dialogue and civic education as well as addressing land tenure issues are part of actions initiated to advance peace in the country.



Still on U.S. Embassy engagement in Cote d'Ivoire, ***Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 6)*** notes that the Embassy held on Wednesday an information session on the Community College Initiative Program. On the occasion, instructions on how to apply to the scholarship were explained to Ivoirians students wishing to study in the United States.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[14 I.Coast cocoa bosses get 20 yrs for embezzlement](#)

GlobalPost

Fourteen former bosses of Ivory Coast's cocoa sector -- the world's number one producer -- have been sentenced to 20 years in prison in a major embezzlement...

[Rialto Energy inks \\$50 million deal with Vitol for Gazelle oilfield ...](#)

Proactive Investors Australia

... a \$50 million deal with Vitol for development of the Gazelle oilfield, Cote d'Ivoire. ... production sharing contract (PSC) for Block CI-202, offshore Cote d'Ivoire.

[New Market Research Report: Cote d'Ivoire Business Forecast ...](#)

USPRwire (press release)

[USPRwire, Thu Nov 07 2013] We believe that Cote d'Ivoire will be one of the fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa over the coming years as the ...

[Pioneering energy project to bring relief to Mano River Union countries](#)

WorldStage

The Board of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) approved on Wednesday, November 6 in Tunis the Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea ...

[Ivory Coast nears completion of LNG deal with Qatar](#)

Reuters UK

ABIDJAN, Nov 7 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast is close to finalising an agreement to get supplies of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Qatar from 2015, an official with ...

[Xiamen Customs busts 2 smuggling rings, seizes ivory worth \\$US98 ...](#)

What's on Xiamen

In early October, close to 800 kilograms was seized, having originated from the Ivory Coast. Xiamen customs said Chen's gang smuggled a total of 2,154 tusks, ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 7, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Court sentences former top cocoa officials to 20 years
2. Reactions after armed men disrupt opposition rally
3. Government launches national day of solidarity
4. Ivoirian army launches mock military exercise
5. President Ouattara calls for security in Mali's town of Kidal
6. Minister, bag producers meet over ban of plastic bags

### 1. Court sentences former top cocoa officials to 20 years

The decision by a court in Abidjan to sentence 15 former heads of state-run cocoa agencies to 20 years in prison with heavy fines is on the front page of most papers today.

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 11)** says the court announced yesterday the verdict in a trial of former heads of cocoa bodies accused of fraud, embezzlement and corruption in the cocoa industry. The report says the defendants included the former head of the government's Fund for the Development and Promotion of Coffee and Cocoa Planters (FDPCC), Henry Kassi Amouzou, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison alongside the former heads of Cote d'Ivoire's main cocoa regulators, the Coffee and Cocoa Board (BCC), the Fund for Regulation and Control (FRC), and the Authority for the Regulation of Coffee and Cocoa (ARCC).

The 15 defendants were also fined to pay the Ivorian government the total sum of FCFA 67 billion (about US \$138 million) in compensation, reports the paper. The report also quotes the court as saying that the defendants have 20 days to lodge an appeal. The paper also recalls that the probe of the former heads of state-run cocoa agencies, who were accused of misappropriation of corporate assets, embezzlement of public funds, breach of trust and fraud, started in 2008 under former president Laurent Gbagbo, in a bid to clean up the Ivoirian cocoa industry.

Pro-government newspaper **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 9)** quotes the defendants' attorney Luc Adje as describing the decision as "inconsistent." "We will file an appeal," the attorney is also reported as saying. "The court shows no pity on the cocoa barons," writes **Le Mandat (p. 7)**.

Reporting on the court's decision, **Le Temps (p. 8)** points to irregularities and dysfunction in the proceedings that, it says, could play in favor of the defendants during the appeal process.

### 2. Reactions after armed men disrupt opposition rally

Violence orchestrated during a rally organized Tuesday by opposition FPI party's chairman Pascal Affi N'Guessan in the central city of Oume continues to be commented upon in the press.

A report in **L'Inter (p. 5)** says the FPI yesterday issued a statement denouncing the violence that occurred at the rally and calling on the government to, "Stop any abuses being perpetrated by enemies of peace." The statement also denounced "impunity" being granted to certain people in a bid to "bring down" the party of former president Laurent Gbagbo.

**Fraternite Matin (p. 7)** reports Joel N'Guessan, the spokesman of President Alassane Ouattara's RDR party, as advising the leader of the FPI to, "Stop scoffing at the victims of the post-electoral crisis." N'Guessan is also reported as telling the opposition leader not to blame the violence at the rally on RDR supporters until a probe is conducted.

While a report in pro-RDR newspaper **Le Patriote (p. 4)** accuses Affi N'Guessan of using his tour across the country to "activate pro-Gbagbo militia groups," a comment in pro-FPI **Notre Voie (p. 3)** claims that the party of President Ouattara is using "force to cling to power."

### **3. Government launches national day of solidarity**

**Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** reports Ivoirian Minister of Solidarity, Family, Women and Children Anne Desire Ouloto as saying, "The compensation of victims for abuses they suffered is the only way to find reconciliation in Cote d'Ivoire." The minister was speaking yesterday at the launch of the National Day for Solidarity aimed at fostering reconciliation in this country. Ouloto also announced plans to identify all the victims of the recent crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.

### **4. Ivoirian army launches mock military exercise**

A vast military exercise dubbed "Tere" is due to kick off today in Agboville, about 80 kilometers north of Abidjan, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**. According to the paper, the announcement was part of a statement released by the Ivoirian Army. According to the paper, the nationwide exercise, which is being organized ahead of the Christmas and New Year celebrations, is aimed at fighting armed robbery in the country. "The army has launched vast operations to fight destabilizers and highway bandits," writes **Le Patriote (p. 5)**.

### **5. President Ouattara calls for security in Mali's town of Kidal**

President Ouattara said, "Kidal must be totally secured," reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)**. According to the paper, the president was reacting yesterday in Abidjan a few days after the assassination of two journalists of French international broadcaster RFI in Kidal, Mali. "This is unacceptable," President Ouattara is reported as saying upon his return from Paris where he was honored as an associate member of the Outre-Mer Academy.

### **6. Minister, bag producers meet over ban of plastic bags**

The Minister of Environment, Public Health and Development, Dr. Remi Allah Kouadio, yesterday met with heads of the companies that produce plastic bags over the government's plan to ban the bags by November 23, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 10)**. The meeting was to share with the producers the proposals that will be put in place by the government in application of the plastic bag ban.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast Sentences Former Cocoa Officials to 20 Years](#)

Bloomberg

A court in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest cocoa grower, sentenced 15 former managers of state-run cocoa agencies to 20 years in prison following the nation's ...

[Standard Bank To Open New Ivory Coast Office](#)

Ventures Africa

VENTURES AFRICA – Standard Bank is set to open a representative office in Francophone West African country, Ivory Coast, increasing the number of its ...

[Total, Anadarko to spend up to \\$300 mln exploring I.Coast blocks](#)

Reuters UK

ABIDJAN Nov 6 (Reuters) - France's Total and partner Anadarko will spend up to \$300 million to drill exploration wells on three offshore block in Ivory Coast in ...

[Xiamen customs smash HK\\$767m ivory smuggling ring](#)

South China Morning Post

In early October close to 800 kilograms was seized, having originated from the Ivory Coast. The deputy inspector of the Xiamen Customs Anti-smuggling Bureau, ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 6, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Armed men disrupt opposition rally in central city of Oume
2. Medical team to attend to detained ex-first lady
3. Government forces unwanted in central city of Toumodi
4. World Bank commits US \$2 billion in Cote d'Ivoire, announces US \$1 million for capacity building for lawmakers
5. World Bank, French Development Agency to support Ivoirian agricultural sector
6. Cote d'Ivoire to import gas from Equatorial Guinea

### 1. Armed men disrupt opposition rally in central city of Oume

Reports in the press today say a meeting organized by the chairman of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, yesterday in the central city of Oume was stained by violence. The incident features prominently in pro-opposition newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 3)** which accuses President Alassane Ouattara's RDR party of "arming the youth against Affi N'Guessan."

**Le Temps (p. 5)** also carries a prominent story accusing supporters of President Ouattara of assaulting FPI's delegation upon arrival in the town for the rally. Affi N'Guessan was able to address the rally despite these incidents, reports the paper.

According to **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 8)**, the violence flared up as RDR supporters marched on the stadium where the rally was planned to be held in an attempt to disrupt it. The youths, who tried to prevent the meeting from being held, were armed with clubs and machetes, reports another pro-opposition daily, **Aujourd'hui (p. 4)**.

On pro-government side, an article in **Le Mandat (p. 5)** says about two hundred youths, who were protesting against the rally, vandalized chairs and tents set-up for the event. The protestors, who called themselves "victims" of the 2011 post-electoral violence, allegedly blocked roads leading to the venue of the rally, reports the paper.

A report in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7)** says the leader of the opposition FPI party, who was in Oume as part of a tour to rally supporters after his release from jail three months ago, was stopped by victims of the 2011 post-electoral violence. The paper reports Affi N'Guessan posted a statement on FACEBOOK wondering about the motive behind the attempt to disrupt a tour aimed at demonstrating "compassion" and encouraging "reconciliation".

### 2. Medical team to attend to detained ex-first lady

A report in **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 9)** says the government has sent a medical team to attend to former first lady Simone Gbagbo who has been held in the northern town of Odienne since 2011 after the 2011 post-electoral crisis. The paper quotes sources close to the Ministry of Justice as saying that the medical team was dispatched on Monday following an alert from people in charge of Mrs. Gbagbo's security regarding her poor health conditions.

"Detained in Odienne, Simone Gbagbo is dying," claims an article in **Le Temps (p. 7)**. The paper also quotes sources close to the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire as saying that a team of specialists was sent on Monday to treat her conditions.

Meanwhile, an article in **Soir Info (p.4)** suggests that after turning down a demand to hand over the former first lady to the International Criminal Court, the authorities in Cote d'Ivoire could take the decision to release her at any time. The paper also claims that the dispatch of a medical team to attend to the former first lady could be precursor of her possible release.

### 3. Government forces unwanted in central city of Toumodi

An article in **L'Inter (p. 7)** suggests that government's security forces have stopped patrolling in the central city of Toumodi. The paper attributes this information to David Kouyate a youth leader in the town who said that the decision was taken following complaints lodged by youths denouncing what they saw as "misconduct" on the part of the security forces.

According to **Le Mandat (p. 9)** youths from different political groups on Monday expressed their displeasure to the authorities of the town after security forces assaulted a resident of the town.

#### **4. World Bank commits US \$2 billion in Cote d'Ivoire, announces US \$1 million for capacity building for lawmakers**

The World Bank's contribution to support economic reforms in Cote d'Ivoire during the past six years accounts for US \$2 billion, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 19)**. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday during a press briefing by head of the World Bank in Cote d'Ivoire Madani Tall. Tall, the report says, was giving a report on the bank's re-engagement since 2008 in Cote d'Ivoire. The bank's support has helped the authorities to collect nearly 750,000 tons of rubbish in Abidjan, which according to Tall, was looking like an abandoned city. The reform has helped revamp the country's cocoa and coffee sector and led to its qualification for the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, he said.

Another article in **Fraternite Matin (p. 10)** says the World Bank has committed US \$ 1 million to support capacity building training for members of the economic and financial commission of the National Assembly. According to the paper, Tall announced this yesterday after talks with the President of the National Assembly, Guillaume Soro.

Reporting on the World Bank's contribution to economic reforms in Cote d'Ivoire, **Le Mandat (p. 7)** quotes Tall as announcing that the country can afford to increase workers salaries by 2014. The head of the World Bank in Cote d'Ivoire also commended the country's economic performance, reports **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan**. "The country has not sought any loan after its qualification for the HIPC," the paper quotes Tall as saying.

#### **5. World Bank, French Development Agency to support Ivoirian agricultural sector**

The World Bank and the French Development Agency (AFD) have granted US \$ 86.4 million to Cote d'Ivoire aimed at boosting the country's agricultural sector, reports **L'Inter (p. 9)**. The two grants were signed yesterday by the Minister in Charge of Economy, Kaba Niale and the heads of World Bank and AFD in Abidjan. The paper also quotes the minister as saying that the grants will enable the Ivoirian economy to become more competitive and lead to a substantial increase in the revenues of farmers.

#### **6. Cote d'Ivoire to import gas from Equatorial Guinea**

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 14)** says the Minister of Industry and Mining of Equatorial Guinea, Gabriel M'Banga Obiang, yesterday met with Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan in Abidjan. Partnership between Cote d'Ivoire and Equatorial Guinea in the gas sector was high on the agenda, reports the paper. The paper also quotes Obiang saying that the discussion focused on possibilities for Equatorial Guinea to export its raw gas products to Cote d'Ivoire.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[West Africa: Standard Bank Expands Its Africa Footprint](#)

AllAfrica.com

Standard Bank Group has expanded its Africa footprint with the opening of a representative office in the Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire). This means that Standard ...

[France to cancel more debt for the world's poorest countries](#)

EurActiv

Foreign debt cancellations are expected to reach new highs in France's 2014 development aid budget, with Somalia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Ivory Coast and Sudan ...

[MER Group Telecom Division Successfully Delivers Mobile ...](#)

HispanicBusiness.com

"Over 90% of the population in Cote d'Ivoire has access to a mobile phone, but only 14% have access to financial services," says Oz Ovady , CEO of the Telecom ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 5, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Victims of Yopougon mass grave sue opposition newspaper
2. More than 300 Ivoirian refugees return home
3. Government moves towards revamping small business in Cote d'Ivoire
4. West African experts discuss plans for low-cost power production

### 1. Victims of Yopougon mass grave sue opposition newspaper

A report in **L'Expression (p. 5)** says the families of approximately 100 victims of a mass grave discovered 13 years ago in Yopougon marched on a court yesterday in Abidjan. They were protesting what they saw as an insult from the former ruling FPI party, which described the mass grave as a "falsehood." The protesters were also at the court to "lodge a complaint" against pro-FPI newspaper *Notre Voie*, which, in an article last week, called the mass grave dating back to the country's 2000 political unrest a "fabrication." The protesters are also reported as saying that they were at the court to seek compensation and to allow the victims to tell their side of the story. "These journalists should come before the court so that the truth comes out," an article in **Le Patriote (p. 4)** quotes a spokesperson of the victims as saying. "The victims are revolted following articles published by journalists," **L'Inter (p. 6)** quotes another spokesperson as saying.

### 2. More than 300 Ivoirian refugees return home

According to a report in **Le Patriote (p. 4)**, 319 Ivoirian refugees recently returned home from Liberia where they had been seeking refuge following the 2011 post-electoral violence. The article also notes that the repatriation of the refugees was carried out following an appeal from President Alassane Ouattara asking Ivoirian refugees to return home.

In a related development, a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 13)** says a group of Ivoirian refugees in Liberia visited the southwestern region of Sassandra, Cote d'Ivoire last week in a bid to evaluate the situation on the ground before coming home. Dubbed "Go and See," the fact-finding mission was jointly initiated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with other partners.

### 3. Government moves towards revamping small business in Cote d'Ivoire

A plan designed by the government aimed at revamping the small business sector in Cote d'Ivoire was unveiled yesterday in Abidjan, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 21)**. The plan will cost about FCFA 250 billion (nearly US \$500 million), Minister of Commerce, Handicrafts and Small Business Jean-Louis Billon is reported as saying. Billon was speaking yesterday at the national day for the promotion of small business and handicrafts in Cote d'Ivoire.

According to **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 7)**, the minister announced the creation of "Programme Phoenix" that will lead to creation of 400,000 jobs and increase Cote d'Ivoire's Gross Domestic Product.

Reporting on the same event, **Notre Voie (p. 8)** quotes Billon as deploring the "fragile" condition of small business in Cote d'Ivoire. "Small businesses are tired of the Ivoirian crisis," the minister is reported as saying. The article also suggests that through this ambitious program, the minister is planning to create about 120,000 small businesses by the year 2020.

In another development, a report in **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 2)** says there has been significant improvement in transport and the free movement of goods throughout Cote d'Ivoire. The report quotes an official with the Observation of Transportation as saying that racketeering in the cocoa and coffee sectors has dropped by FCFA 9 billion (about US \$18 million) from 2011 to 2012.



#### **4. West African experts discuss plans for low-cost power production**

A report in ***L'Expression* (p. 10)** says experts from West African countries are meeting in Abidjan this week to find ways to reduce the cost of gas in the sub-region. The conference will also allow participants to share experiences on how gas production can contribute to economic development.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

**Govt of Ivory Coast establishes cotton council**

Fibre2fashion.com

The Western African country of *Ivory Coast* has now got its own Board of Directors Council of Cotton and Cashew as the country's Minister of ...

**Abe to visit Africa in Jan. with business leaders**

The Japan News

Abe is to visit South Africa, Mozambique and Cote d'Ivoire, most likely from Jan. ... Cote d'Ivoire is known as one of the most pro-Japanese countries in Africa.

**High noon of imperialism**

BusinessDay

Riding the present wave of Afro-optimism, country after country comes to London to pronounce themselves 'open for business', the latest being Cote d'Ivoire, ...

**Ivory Coast's Tiken Jah Fakoli on living in Mali**

BBC News

It would be hard to find anyone who loves African reggae and does not love Tiken Jah Fakoli's song *Africain a Paris* (An African in Paris), based ...

## American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

November 4, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. [Lawmakers to start awareness campaign on land issues](#)
2. [Gbagbo's FPI launches fund-raising campaign](#)
3. [Gbagbo's son stopped at airport](#)
4. [Former president's visit to Equatorial Guinea sparks speculation](#)
5. [Heads of proximity radios trained on human rights issues](#)
6. [Youths want more representations in government institutions](#)

### 1. Lawmakers to start awareness campaign on land issues

A prominent report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16) says Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara is seeking the support of the National Assembly in a bid to resolve land disputes in Western Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, this was announced last week by Agricultural Minister Sangafowa Coulibaly. The minister, speaking at a press briefing in Abidjan, said a parliamentary commission will be traveling to the region soon to "evaluate the situation on the ground" regarding land issues. The lawmakers will also be tasked with encouraging the population to respect the 1998 law on land ownership that was reviewed this year by the National Assembly, reports the paper. Any land acquired through outside arrangements is "illegal," *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 7) quotes the agricultural minister as saying. The minister also described the new law on land tenure in Cote d'Ivoire as "ambitious," adding, "The government is working to explain this law to the public in order to restore social cohesion."

"Sangafowa Coulibaly warns against illegal land transactions," reports *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3). The paper also reports the minister as saying that the high costs of land registration in Cote d'Ivoire could hamper the application of the new law.

### 2. Gbagbo's FPI launches fund-raising campaign

A fund-raising campaign launched by the former ruling FPI party features prominently in the press today. According to *Notre Voie* (p. 3), the campaign was launched Saturday by Pascal Affi N'Guessan, the party's chairman. Dubbed "Je Donne au FPI (I give to the FPI)," the campaign began with fanfare, reports the paper. The campaign is part of the party's strategy "to counter plans by those in power to cut the party's resources," the paper quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying.

"Let's give the party the means to retake power," an article in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 7) quotes Affi N'Guessan as telling supporters of FPI, the party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. *Le Temps* (p. 5) describes FPI's funding campaign as the party's "financial resistance,"

while *Aujourd'hui* (p. 5), a daily close to the opposition, also quotes Affi N'Guessan as calling on supporters to stand up against what he described as "financial blackmailing" by the government.

Affi N'Guessan is looking for money ahead of future political battles, reports pro-government newspaper, *Le Mandat* (p. 2). "This campaign must succeed to help us retake power," *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 8) quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying.

### 3. Gbagbo's son stopped at airport

A report in *Soir Info* (p. 3) says Michel Gbagbo, the son of the former Ivoirian president, was stopped a few days ago when trying to leave country for a trip outside the country. According to the paper, the incident, which was not officially confirmed, was reported by an online media source. The article suggests that the son of the former president, who was recently released on bail along with other officials of the former ruling party, was trying to travel to Paris and then to The Hague, where his father is facing trial on charges of crimes against humanity.

#### **4. Former president's visit to Equatorial Guinea sparks speculation**

A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3)** says former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie was in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, where he met with President Obiang N'Guema Mbasogo. According to the report, this visit was an opportunity for Bedie's PDCI-RDA party "to reinforce its relationship" with N'Guema Mbasogo's ruling party.

In the wake of Bedie's trip to Malabo, **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3)** carries a prominent article wondering whether "Bedie was prospecting for his candidacy in the 2015 presidential elections." On the motive behind the trip, an article in **Le Mandat (p. 6)** claims that Bedie is trying to reposition his party on the international arena ahead of the 2015 presidential elections.

#### **5. Heads of proximity radios trained on human rights issues**

The Ministry of Justice and Human Rights trained journalists from community radio stations on human rights, reports **Le Jour Plus (p. 4)**. The training, the paper says, was held to equip the proximity radio stations with information to better advise the public on the issue.

#### **6. Youths want more representations in government institutions**

A report in **Le Jour Plus (p. 6)** says that the youth of Cote d'Ivoire are demanding 30 percent representation in state institutions. According to the paper, this was one of the recommendations of the Third National Youth Forum that concluded on Thursday in Abidjan. Speaking at the closing ceremony, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Baongo Cisse, urged the youth to stop serving as "an appendage" of political leaders.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast's 2013-14 Cocoa Output Steady as Changes Take Time](#) Bloomberg

Cocoa production in Ivory Coast, the largest grower, will be steady in the season started this month as market-structure changes take time to have an impact, ...

[Yaya Touré to help combat illegal ivory trade](#) SportsPro Media

The Manchester City and Ivory Coast midfielder has pledged to assist UNEP in its efforts to stop poaching and the loss of habitats, both which are contributing to ...

[Ivoirians Face an Incomplete Justice](#) Inter Press Service

ABIDJAN, Côte d'Ivoire, Oct 31 2013 (IPS) - "We are sad. We want our president back," Yao Amandine told IPS from a street corner in the Ivorian economic ...

[Review ban on rice imports](#) GhanaWeb

The Ghana-Ivory Coast Rice Importers and Sellers Association has made a passionate appeal to President John Dramani Mahama to as a matter of urgency, ...

[Documentary reveals child abuse in African cocoa industry](#) Oswegonian

He found that many of these industries receive their chocolate from the Ivory Coast but none admitted to having knowledge of the illegal trafficking or child labor

#### **Media affiliation and circulation**

(Newspaper circulation figures represent number of copies printed, not actual sales)

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned daily newspaper

23,000 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily; leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara  
7,000 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily 20,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo  
10,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA party of former President Henri Konan Bedie  
17,000 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily close to the RDR party of President Alassane Ouattara  
17,000 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo  
30,000 daily

Nord-Sud Quotidien- (no current website)

Daily close to Speaker of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro  
10,000 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo  
15,000 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily 22,000

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[Agence Ivoirienne](#) de Presse

Government-run news agency

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate